

Term Definition

Exporter A person or business that sells goods or services to

another country.

Importer A person or business that buys goods or services

from another country.

Bill of Lading (BOL) A document acknowledging the receipt of goods for

shipment.

Customs Declaration Formal document required by customs authorities

to import/export goods.

Incoterms Standardized trade terms defining buyer and seller

responsibilities (e.g., FOB, CIF).

Freight Forwarder A third party that arranges shipment and logistics

for goods.

Customs Duties Taxes or tariffs imposed on imported/exported

goods.

Letter of Credit (LC) A bank guarantee ensuring payment to the seller

once conditions are met.

HS Code Classification system for categorizing traded

products.

Tariffs Taxes on imports or exports to control trade or

protect local industries.

Export License Government permit required for exporting certain

goods.

Import Quota Limit on the quantity of a product that can be

imported in a given period.

Countertrade Trade agreement where goods/services are

exchanged instead of money.

Supply Chain Flow of goods and services from raw material to the

end customer.

Trade Finance Financial products that support international trade

(e.g., LC, trade credit).

Free On Board (FOB) Incoterm where the seller delivers goods to the port

of shipment.

Cost, Insurance, Freight (CIF)

Incoterm where the seller covers cost, insurance,

and freight.

Ex Works (EXW) Incoterm where the seller makes goods available for

pickup at their premises.

Import License Government authorization required to import

certain goods.

Export-Import Bank

(EXIM)

Government bank that provides financial support to

exporters.

Advance Payment Payment made before goods are shipped, usually by

the buyer to the seller.

Trade Barrier Government-imposed restriction on international

trade (e.g., tariffs, quotas).

Free Trade Agreement

(FTA)

Treaty between countries to reduce or eliminate

trade barriers.

Origin Certificate Document stating the country of origin of exported

goods.

Proforma Invoice Preliminary bill of sale sent to the buyer before

goods are shipped.

Import Duty Tax charged on goods entering a country.

Value Added Tax (VAT) Tax levied on the value added to goods and

services.

Demurrage Charges for delay in unloading cargo beyond

allowed time.

Carrying Charges Expenses for storing or transporting goods.

Customs Broker Licensed individual/firm handling customs

formalities for importers and exporters.

Bonded Warehouse Storage facility where goods can be stored without

paying duties until cleared.

Dispute Resolution Methods to resolve conflicts in trade (e.g.,

arbitration or mediation).

Export Credit

Insurance

Insurance protecting exporters from non-payment

by foreign buyers.

Consignment Goods sent to an agent/distributor to be sold on

behalf of the owner.

Shipment Terms Conditions defining responsibilities for shipping and

delivery.

Port of Entry Location where goods are brought into a country.

Port of Exit Location from which goods are exported.

Inland Transportation Transport of goods from the port to the destination

within the country.

Air Freight Shipping of goods via air transportation.

Ocean Freight Shipping of goods via sea or ocean.

Breakbulk Cargo Cargo loaded individually, rather than in containers.

Containerized Cargo Cargo packed in large shipping containers for

handling and transport.

Packing List Detailed list of shipment items, including

descriptions and quantities.

Import Customs

Clearance

Process of clearing goods through customs upon

entry into a country.

Export Customs

Clearance

Process of clearing goods through customs for

export.

Marking and Labeling Adding necessary identification marks/labels to

goods for export.

Multimodal Transport Use of more than one mode of transport (e.g., ship,

truck) for goods movement.

Trade Credit Credit extended by a seller to a buyer for

goods/services purchase.

Landed Cost Total cost of getting goods to the buyer, including

shipping, duties, and taxes.

Export Packing Special packaging to protect goods during

international transport.